THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALUKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Railways Act, 1989 no weighment at destination is permissible of goods booked at Owner's risk rate. Since coal is generally booked by consignors at owner's risk rate, weighment is not granted. But this is not responsible for pilferage of coal in transit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) According to the information received from the Ministry of coal, government have so far not received any report of pilferage of coal if such high magnitude from the collieries. Hence question of any enquiry does not arise.

Conversion of Rupsa-Bangripusi Narrow Gauge Line

1076. SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS bo pleased to state :

(a.) whether any scheme or programme has been chalked out for conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines during the Eighth Five Year Plan period in the country and whether Rupsa-Bangripusi narrow gauge line has been included therein ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect this line to Tatanagai ; and

(c) it so, by when the Rupsa-Bangripusi Line is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) An Action Plan for conversion of selected Metre Gauge/ Narrow Gauge lines to B. G. has been taken up. About 10,000 kms of such lines have been included in the first phase of this plan. Of this 6,000 kms are proposed to be converted during the 8th Five Year Plan. R'ipsa- Bangripusi section is not included in this phase of the Action Plan.

(b)to , Sir.

(c) Rupsa-Bangripusi will be considered along with other lines while taking up the next phase of the Action Plan.

Transferring Railway Land to the Co-operative Housing Societies

1077. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the Maharashtra Government's proposal for transfering Railway Land to the Cooperative Housing Societies of the Slum dwellers residing along the Railway lines in Bombay ;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when such a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) The State Government have requested for leasing of the land at a nominal rate of 1% of the market value of land. Railways have offered either to relinquish to the State Government the land beyond the safety zone and surplus to Railways' requirement at market rates or on exchange basis or to license this land at 6% of the market value. Further decision in the matter lies with the State GOVT ernment of Maharashtra.

Conversion of Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge in Rajasthan

1078. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that at present non-availability of wagons and also the limited carrying and movement capacity in metre gauge sector are .responsible for low production of steel grade limestone at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to expedite the